

U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Fogel in view of the Bender reference, U.S. Patent No. 5,657,402. Since the rejected claims, namely, claims 1, 18, 20, 37, 39 and 56, have been canceled without prejudice to facilitate matters, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing rejections be withdrawn since they are now moot.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that since all of the currently pending claims, namely, claims 2 to 17, 19, 21 to 36, 38, 40 to 55 and 57 to 82, are now allowed over the references of record, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance and issue.

CONCLUSION

In view of all of the above, it is believed that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 have been obviated, and that all of the presently pending claims, namely, claims 2 to 17, 19, 21 to 36, 38, 40 to 55 and 57 to 82, have now been allowed. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Dated: 1/30/2001

Respectfully Submitted,
KENYON & KENYON

By: 

Aaron C. Deditch (Reg. No. 33,865)

One Broadway
New York, NY 10004
(212) 425-7200

346464